



UMW Set To Slash Budget By 15%

By **MILES DUMVILLE** and
SUSANNAH CLARK
Staff Writers

In potentially its largest annual budget reduction this decade, the University of Mary Washington plans to slash its spending by 15 percent in the next academic year. Following a revenue shortfall of \$7 billion, Gov. Tim Kaine has ordered colleges and universities across Virginia to do the same.

Last year the University faced a similar 15 percent budget cut, which was later reduced to 8 percent after the addition of federal stimulus funds. In all, spending was cut by \$1.6 million. Kaine has again asked the federal government for more stimulus funding this year to reduce financial pressures.

Vice President of Business and Finance Rick Pearce estimates that UMW has experienced a 20 percent budget deficit overall since 2002.

"The University is still recovering from budgets cuts that went into effect during the 2002-2003 school year," Pearce said.

In an email to faculty, President Hampe stated that "UMW is presently

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Virginia Candidates Campaign on Campus



Heather Brady/Bullet



Heather Brady/Bullet

Tim Pawlenty, the governor of Minnesota, spoke during a GOP rally for Bob McDaniel, who is running for governor, in the Red Room Wednesday afternoon. The College Republicans hosted the event.

Krystal Ball, a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, spoke Wednesday night in Combs as part of her campaign. It was hosted by the Young Democrats.



Sarah Smith/Bullet

Nine Possible Flu Cases

By **HEATHER BRADY**
Staff Writer

On alert for swine flu, the Health Center has reported nine cases of influenza-like illness on the Mary Washington campus as of Tuesday evening.

According to Thomas Riley, university physician and director of the Health Center, the number rose to nine students overnight from seven students on Monday, and the Health Center is expecting to see more cases soon.

Riley said that the state does not do definite testing for swine flu cases, because negative test results are not always accurate. A positive test confirms the flu diagnosis, but a negative test does not disprove it. Instead, students are simply diagnosed with influenza-like illness (ILI) if they show symptoms of the flu.

"The epidemiology studies at this time show that it is 97 percent likely that someone with these symptoms has H1N1 flu," Riley said.

"UMW is working on the appropriate response to the swine flu," he continued. "We don't know if this will be a non-event like the 1976 swine flu, or an emergency like the 1918-1919 'Spanish' Flu, also an H1N1 flu. We are preparing for both extremes."

According to Riley, the University has a comprehensive Pandemic Response Plan in place to address the situation, with three possible action levels that depend on the severity of the spread of the disease. He said that the plan covers all departments of the University, and also uses assistance from and coordination with state and local resources.

Most experts are expecting a high number of students to get the virus, according to Riley.

"Since the virus is a new strain, young people have not been exposed to it before, and do not have natural immunity," Riley said.

However, he emphasized that the concern lies not in the number of students that get the virus.

"The question is the severity of the illness," Riley said. "So far, this has been moderate."

According to an Associated Press article forwarded through the Virginia Department of Health, the H1N1 virus will not combine with other strains of the flu virus that it encounters to create a stronger strain.

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E-mail Switch Confuses Users

By **SARAH DENBY**
Staff Writer

The University of Mary Washington discontinued its use of Novell Netmail (student@umw.edu) and began using Live@edu, its new primary e-mail service, on Aug. 1.

The new webmail system, which is supported by exchangelabs.com, a service provided by Microsoft, has many new features that enable users to create a website, manage their e-mail from their phone, create a user profile and share pictures with other users.

Some students, like senior Catelin

Wrigley, were unaware of the e-mail change and were surprised when they tried to log into their old account and did not understand how to use the new updated system.

"At first I was confused," Wrigley said. "I was under the impression that I had to create a whole new e-mail, and I was trying to figure out how my professors would know how to reach me!"

The new student e-mail was launched on Dec. 1, 2008. An e-mail sent out to students on this date gave instructions on how to set up their ac-

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Jessica Masull and Heather Brady/Bullet

Students Push For More Composting

By **EMILY MONTGOMERY**
Staff Writer

The sustainability team at the University of Mary Washington is hoping to move in a greener direction with the development of a new food composting program.

The school already composts all yard waste at two spots on campus, one by the baseball field and one by Brompton. The team hopes to divert additional pounds of waste from landfills by composting food remains from the Eagle's Nest and Seacobeck.

Sodexo, the contractor for UMW Dining Services, estimated that the kitchens throw away over 500 lbs of food waste per day.

The team, which has been working on the project all summer, is hoping to base the plan off of a University of Virginia program, in which food waste is trucked to a nearby farm, where it is composted and becomes the property of the farm to sell or use as fertilizer. However, no farms local to Fredericksburg have agreed to accept the school's compost.

Senior Nate Delano, the sustainability coordinator, says that they still hope to find a willing contractor. If the team

is unable to find a composting facility, they are considering other options, such as putting a machine directly on campus.

"This would have a higher start-up cost," Delano said.

Emily Morton, a member of the Students for a Democratic Society, originally had the idea for the composting project. She planned to have SDS members help with on-campus composting. She approached the sustainability team because they run recycling, and they agreed to try to develop it.

"Our image of 'being green' and our amount of waste, and therefore our carbon footprint, could be quickly minimized with composting," Morton said.

Delano said that if a program is developed, no matter if the composting takes place on or off campus, the sustainability team still wants it to be largely student-run.

Other members of the UMW community are equally eager to get the program started.

"We had been interested in creating such a program for several years," junior Carly Byers, of the Ecology Club,

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Unemployment Touches Many in Fredericksburg



Samantha Daniel/Bullet

By **DAVID TINDELL**
Staff Writer

As unemployment peaked this summer in Fredericksburg, UMW students found it difficult to find work.

The Fredericksburg area recorded some of the worst unemployment numbers for cities in the state in recent years. According to the Department of Labor, Fredericksburg's unemployment

reached 9.8 percent in June of 2009, up from 5.9 percent in 2008. The State of Virginia's unemployment as a whole is lower overall, at 6.9 percent.

The unemployment rate also considers those without work who are actively looking for employment. These 289,700 unemployed Virginia workers, 117,500 more than the same month last year according to the Virginia Employment Commission, compete with stu-

dents for work, meaning UMW college students with limited time and experience fend for jobs against one of the most competitive markets in the state.

Fredericksburg's overall workforce is 13,000, meaning about 1,300 workers were unemployed as of July.

With such an abundant workforce, Fredericksburg does not have enough job expansion to match. Manager Chris

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Upcoming Events:

Band: The Vermillions

Fri., Sept. 11, Lee Hall Underground, free, 9 p.m.

C.O.A.R. Blood Drive

Thurs., Sept. 10, Great Hall, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

C.O.A.R. Into Da Streetz

Sat., Sept. 12, meet at GW parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to volunteer at various areas in Fredericksburg; sign up at the Nest from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thurs. and Fri.

Market Square Concert

Sun., Sept. 13, Market Square, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; free music, pizza and cups; located on the corner of William St. and Princess Anne St. across from Hyperion; many bands featured.

Events courtesy of OSACS.

Want to get involved? Come to a staff meeting on Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Bullet office, located in the lower-level of Seacobeck, or contact newsxcrew@gmail.com



Police Beat

By JESSICA MASULLI
Staff Writer



Aug. 30- At 2:33 a.m., three non-UMW men were found throwing the no smoking area signs near Lee Hall. Two of the men were issued trespass warnings. The other man was arrested.

Sept. 1- A UMW officer found graffiti in a first floor men's bathroom stall in Simpson Library. There are no suspects or witnesses at this time.

Sept. 4- At 2:48 a.m., a UMW officer stopped a car without its headlights on turning from College

Avenue into the Chandler Lot 2 parking area. The UMW female driver was intoxicated and was over the legal alcohol limit of .08. The student was over 21 years old, but was still arrested for driving under the influence.

Aug. 21- At 1:28 a.m., an intoxicated student was transported to Mary Washington Hospital. The woman was over 21-years-old and had passed out on College Avenue, where UMW police later found her.

Aug. 21- A video projector was stolen from Chandler Hall room 303. The projector is valued at over \$2,000. UMW police are unsure of when the projector went missing.

Aug. 22- Around 3 p.m., a message board was stolen off of a resident's door in Russell Hall. There are no suspects at this time.

Aug. 26- A Magna Mountain Bike was stolen from outside Virginia Hall. The estimated value is at least \$200. There are no suspects or wit-

nesses at this time.

Aug. 29- At 9 a.m., UMW police found that three parking signs had been stolen from behind Marye Hall. The signs were recovered a short distance away, but there are still no suspects.

Aug. 30- At 2 a.m., a UMW student was arrested for public intoxication outside George Washington Hall on Campus Walk. The student was also referred to the administration.

This information was compiled with help from Executive Director of Police and Security Services Mark Sandor.

As Semester Opens, E-mail Concerns Arise

◀ E-MAIL, page 1

count, as well as how to forward important e-mails to the new address from the Novell Netmail address.

The next day, the new student e-mail was temporarily blocked to uncover a glitch, but was unblocked three days later. Two e-mails regarding these issues were sent out to students.

Up until Aug. 1, students were able to use both their old and new accounts. After the switch, e-mails that would have been received in the Novell account would now be automatically sent to the new address, due to a mail enabled contact that the University worked out with Microsoft.

E-mails from Banner and Eaglelink

have been directed toward the new student email addresses. As a result, students will no longer receive mail in their old student accounts. Students may send e-mails to either address.

"As of Aug. 1, there have been no technical problems with the new student e-mail," Pam Lowery, director of student services, said.

Senior Ashley Scharf is content with the new e-mail system.

"Outlook works fine," Scharf said. "I like the new e-mail a lot and how it functions."

Lowery said one possible reason why students are still not up-to-date with the new email system is because e-mails concerning it have been deleted.

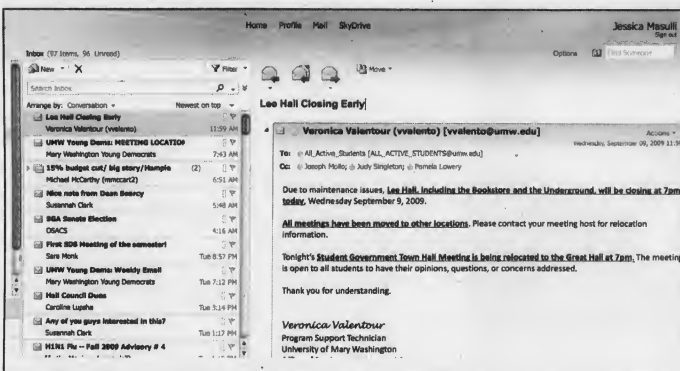
"Students have put those notifications in the trash," Lowery said.

Scharf admits that she is guilty of this.

"My roommates and I saw all the notifications on webmail, but we just deleted them," Scharf said. "I guess I should have paid more attention to my e-mail."

Senior Cateelin Wrigley, who is now familiar with the e-mail system, still thinks that more could have been done to make the transition to the new e-mail system smoother.

"Even though they had emailed us numerous times, there should have been more of a clarification of what to do," Wrigley said.



A screenshot of the new UMW e-mail system.

Students Swipe Meals With Less Time Restrictions

By AMBER GOLDWASSER
Staff Writer

This semester, Dining Services allows students to use their meals when they choose, without the time restrictions enforced in the past.

Meals can now be used whenever Dining Services is open, regardless of the meal block, as long as the student still has meals for that week left. Now the option is available to use more meals in one time block without having to use Flex or EagleOne.

According to the Dining Services website, guest meals are not included within the meal plans. This means that while students can use more than one meal for themselves, they cannot use a meal for someone else.

At the start of this year, Dining Services worked to alter student eating options. Erma Baker, assistant vice president for business services, said they made the choice to change the old option as a result of several factors, including talking with students.

Dining Services took into account feedback from the SGA student dining committee, a survey of 450 students conducted last year and dining team visits to all residence halls.

Students requested more flexibility for when they could use their meal plans. Baker said, though, that Dining Services "wants the student[s] to be aware that it is their responsibility to monitor their meal usage and to get the maximum value out of their meal plans."

Dining Services started talking about this option in the spring, and finalized the decision in the summer at the end of the contracted term. They implemented the change at the start of this semester.

This new option can be used at both dining locations. At the Nest, one meal still counts as up to \$4. The Underground, however, will still only be taking Flex and EagleOne Dollars.

Students say this new option will help them use more of their meals each week.

Junior Annie Bolick said she loves the new option.

"I finally actually use all of my meals, and now I don't have to go to Giant to get milk and yogurt, since I can use meals to stock up on them at the end of the week," Bolick said.

Baker said she did not expect the students to store food, but rather to graze during the day, eating many small meals or snacks. She also believes participation in the meal plans will increase.

According to Bolick, leftover meals can now be used at the end of the week to shop for weekly snacks.

Junior Matt Baker also uses extra meals to have "a light breakfast snack."

This new meal option increases the chances of students being able to use their meals before the end of the week.

"There are ups and downs to the new meal option," sophomore Lauren Ryerson said. "The upside is that you

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Summer Program Doubles Its Size, Impact

By SARAH SMITH
Staff Writer

The Student Transition Program, a University sponsored five-week, two-class summer session for select incoming freshmen, took a record 62 participants this year. As a program that promotes diversity at Mary Washington, the unprecedented participation coincides with a five percent increase in diversity among incoming freshmen, according to Academic Services.

"I think we got to experience college before it even started," freshman Prakriti Khani said of her experience over the summer.

According to STP Director Dean Leah Cox, the program has been a part of Mary Washington for two decades, and exists in other universities across the state. Originally funded by the State Higher Education Board, budget cuts caused the state to withdraw backing seven years ago. At that time, the University decided the program was important enough to maintain without state financial help.

Over the years, there have been approximately 30 students each summer in the program. In 2008, Cox became director of the program and broadened it to include a course, Education 101. The class gives the students the opportunity to receive additional guidance during the school year and find out how best to use the university's resources.

According to Rita Thompson, assistant dean of admissions, President Judy Hample increased the STP staff, enabling them to admit more students. In summer of 2009, 62 students were admitted into the program.

Thompson said she looks at many factors when it comes to inviting students. Freshmen that are chosen to participate receive notice with their admissions letters.

"We're looking for certain things in their background," Thompson said. "A lot of schools may not have APs or an International Baccalaureate program. Some students don't have as much access and other students do not have the opportunity to take higher level courses, and they aren't coming in with seven or 10 AP courses."

For some students, their acceptance to the University was contingent on their participation in STP.

"The program is designed to help prepare students for college life, and without the program, although they are very bright, they might not do as well," Thompson said.

The students each take two classes free of charge, giving them the opportunity to experience the teaching styles, workloads and time management of

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Viewpoints

UMW Begins Year with Improvements

Complaining about the administration is a time-honored tradition at UMW, and the *Bullet* admittedly loves to participate. But none of us would be here if they really never got anything right, and this semester, UMW has had a particularly good start.

Campus looks as beautiful as ever, and the completion

of Lee Hall is a relief for anyone tired of looking at an ugly white fence. Both Lee Hall and the Underground have been well received by students and visitors and give the campus more of a "real" university feel while still utilizing UMW's traditional architecture style. The construction on Eagle Village has taken off faster than past construction projects, too.

Last year, President Hample declared that encouraging a more diverse student population was one of her main goals. It looks like she's already delivered, as there was a notable increase in the freshman class's racial diversity from last year.

Even in the face of difficult news events, UMW has pulled itself together. After the death of junior Preston Hirsten, the Athletics department came together

across teams to commemorate the tragedy. President Hample also did a stellar job of informing the campus and honoring Preston in her e-mails to the university population.

Staff Editorial

The administration has also improved its communication with the

university in other areas. Updates regarding the H1N1 virus have been detailed and regularly e-mailed, keeping campus alerted and, hopefully, a little healthier this flu season.

Students want and need those types of updates and efforts to communicate as much as possible, and if administrators can keep up, we'll probably all be happy even when things are going wrong—often students just want to know when and why things



The new Lee Hall, one of many improvements around campus

are going wrong in the first place.

Diversity, updated buildings, communication and the ability to use your meals whenever you please—it's hard to criticize any of that. Give us and the rest of the student body time and we'll probably manage to find plenty to jump on. But as for now, our hat is off to the administration. Keep it up.

AP Shows Lack of Respect for Fallen Soldier and Family

Press distributes photo against family wishes

BY ANNE ELDER
Guest Columnist

In a time when violence and war are graphically displayed in the media, often the line between compelling journalism and explicit coverage is blurred. Regardless of journalistic intentions, Americans should not be subjected to witnessing devastating images against the explicit wishes of family members.

According to *The New York Times*, on Aug. 14, 2009, Lance Corporal Joshua Bernard was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade, which caused him many fatal leg injuries. While fellow Marines looked after his wounds, Associated Press photographer Julie Jacobson, who was following the Marine unit through Afghanistan, took a picture of the brutal scene with a long lens.

The release of this image has caused controversy nationwide.

On her voyage through Afghanistan, Jacobson acquired countless photos of the unit before the ambush as well as at Bernard's memorial service, yet it was the bloody, graphic photo of the dying Marine that attracted the most attention.

In my opinion, the release of the blurry picture that "told a story of sacrifice," as AP senior managing editor John Daniszewski told, was just a ploy used by national news gatherers to cause scandal and display their journalistic audacity. Their decision to release it showed poor journalistic etiquette and a general lack of common decency.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates is calling the

release "appalling," according to *The Washington Post*.

Both Gates and the family of the fallen Marine personally requested the photos remain unseen by the public.

Before releasing the photos last Friday, an AP reporter visited Bernard's home, where his father told them the pictures would be "disrespectful to his son's memory." When asked again about the exposure of the photos, the family was adamant about not wanting them released.

Despite the multiple requests sent to the AP, the photos were sent out to newspapers all over the country last week. While I do not think the AP should censor their coverage to protect the American mindset of war, rash decisions should not be made regarding the delicate subject of death and a grieving family.

Respect should be granted not only to the deceased but also to the surviving relatives.

The family made it clear to the AP and now to all of America that they did not wish for the brutal images to be included in newspapers, yet their wishes were essentially ignored.

Daniszewski said, "[Knowing the family's wishes] created a difficult choice between our job to document the war and our respect for the suffering of the corporal's family."

Ultimately, the AP found their job to be more important and tastelessly sent the image of a maimed, dying son to newspapers around the country.

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”

Overcrowding and Long Lines at Seaco Frustrate Students

BY BREEANNA SVEUM
Viewpoints Editor

Last week, my friends and I went to Seaco at noon for lunch, as we usually do on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The frustration incurred from the long lines to enter the building was further compounded by the lack of available tables able to fit the six of us, forcing us to take our lunches outside, just so we could sit down to eat.

Now, had this happened last year, the minor inconvenience of going outside would have been fine. The weather was lovely, and there were plenty of tables at which we could sit. True, most of them were small tables that could only sit two or three, but they were tables nonetheless.

This year, with the opening of the deck at the Nest and the porch of Lee Hall, those tables have been relocated, and there aren't any outside of Seaco.

I'm sure my story isn't unique: the lines back

up around noon every day, and I've seen other students forced to eat outside as well.

This might not seem like a big deal now, while the weather is nice and in the upper 70s or 80s, but in a few weeks, temperatures will drop to the 50s, making eating outside considerably less pleasant.

So why all the people? Well, to some degree, a lot of students like to have lunch at noon, between

classes. But that's not the only reason for the back up.

In addition to being the most diverse, the current freshman class is also the largest.

If the school is going to increase acceptance, thereby increasing the student body (especially with

freshmen who are pretty much restricted to eating on campus and having a fifteen-meal plan), changes will have to be made to accommodate the

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Breeanna Sveum/Bullet

The line into Seacobeck at noon stretches down the hill.

extra people.

There's at least one more card reader that I know of, usually tucked away on the wall between the South Market and the Dome Room, that, to my knowledge, has never been used. There is also a convenient set of doors right there that could be used for an additional line, at the very least during the mid-day lunch rush. It would only need to be staffed for two hours or so, and it would severely cut down the wait time outside of the building, resulting in students being better able to get to their next classes on time.

There isn't a lot that can be done about the long lines and lack of available tables, but more options for meals would help. The Underground serves food during the day, but currently, they only accept

Flex or Eagleone/Cash. Why? Meal equivalency has worked at the Nest and implementing meals at the Underground would reduce traffic and lines at both Seaco and the Nest.

At the very least, tables should be moved back outside of the Dome Room in Seaco, allowing students to eat outside if they can't find a table inside the building.

The long lines both inside Seaco and outside of the building are frustrating but not impossible to fix. Small changes, like having another line into Seaco during the lunch rush or bringing back the tables so students can eat outside would go a long way for reducing the amount of frustration students feel as well as allowing them sufficient time to eat between classes.

Letter and Editorial Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to the *Bullet* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our e-mail at umwbulet@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact the *Bullet* at 540-654-1133.

the
Bulletin

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Viewpoints

Sexclamations: Your thoughts could be here!

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you like to write?
- Are you open about your relationships, sex, or sexuality?
- Do you have opinions about sexuality, fetishes, safe sex, gay rights, modesty, pornography, or anything else that makes people blush?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you could be one of our new Sexclamations columnists!

If you think you have what it takes, email a sample column to umwbullet@gmail.com, and your column could appear here.

Seasoned Rock Stars Need to Retain Same Spark as Early Career

Of the obnoxious amount of concerts I splurged on this summer, the two most worthwhile were the two most expensive: I dropped over \$100 each to see the hardest working senior citizens in show business: Bruce Springsteen and Sir Paul McCartney.

Along with allowing me to cross two items off my list of life goals, both shows restored my faith in rock 'n' roll. Even with wrinkles, Springsteen and McCartney still got it.

What the Walrus and the Jersey Devil share is undeniable, unyielding passion. They've been playing the same songs, curing the same audience participation, for over 30 years, and still manage to perform with the same vigor as their nightclub days. While both artists have a seemingly endless repertoire of mediocre work from the past two decades, neither shy away from the crowd-pleasing hits that got them selling out arenas in the first place.

Springsteen and McCartney play for their audience, and not for themselves. Their elation is contagious.

Not all seasoned rock stars have embraced this concept. At the Lollapalooza music festival this summer, I was stoked to see Lou Reed, another '70s icon I'd grown up listening to.

After he came on stage 20 minutes late, my excitement quickly turned into disenchantment when I noticed my favorite Velvet Undergroundsman was reading his lyrics off a teleprompter.

And he still came in at the wrong time during "Sweet Jane." During the same song, he summoned his roadies to switch his guitar five times.

Throughout the six songs he played, Reed

looked and sounded bored-to-tears, managing to make his already monotone voice even more lifeless. I never thought the song "Walk on the Wild Side" could sound so depressing.

At the end of his set, which, by the way, bled into Band of Horses' show on the adjacent stage, Reed muttered the names of his band mates and pointed to himself last.

"And me," he barked. Most of the crowd ate it up. I missed Snoo Dogg for this?

I get it. Lou Reed's whole persona is based on not giving damn, and I know I can't compare him to goody-goody pop stars like Springsteen and McCartney. But, if Lou Reed really was such a badass, he wouldn't have signed up to play at a commercialized festival in the first place.

Frankly, Reed doesn't sound good enough anymore to justify acting like a jerk on stage. Not respecting authority is one thing, but not respecting your audience, the very fans that gave you a voice in the first place, is another. It's hard to enjoy a concert when the performer clearly isn't.

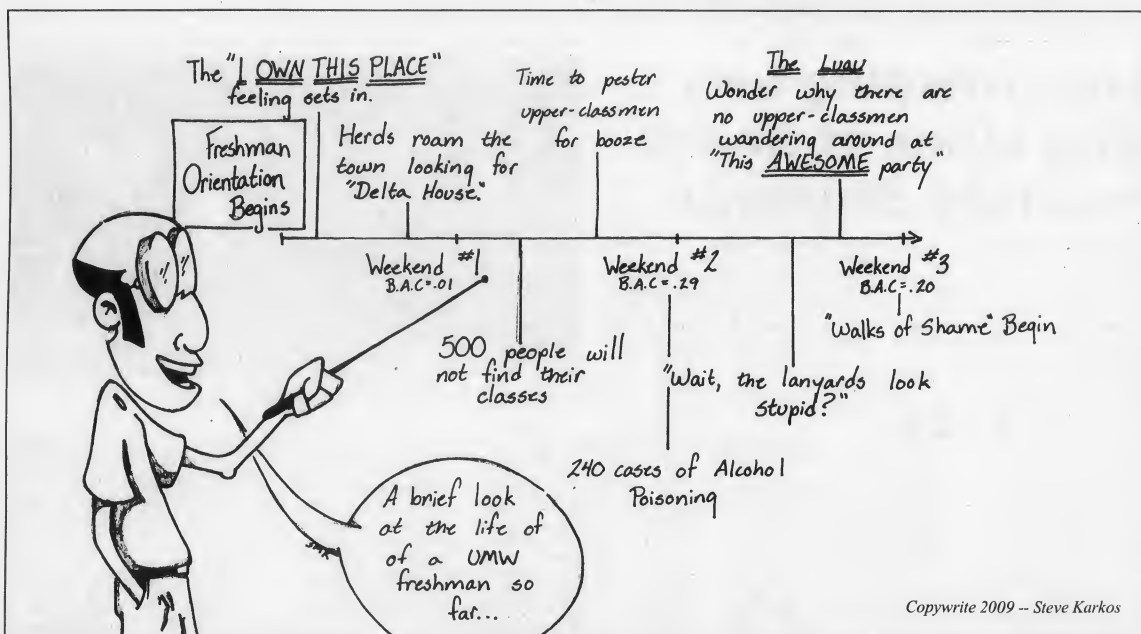
My reaction to Lou Reed's apathy was similar to when I heard Bob Dylan's abrasively strained singing voice back in 2006. That show wasn't actually pleasing to my ears, but it's nice to say I've seen a legend.

Thank God for the sell-outs. To Bruce Springsteen and Paul McCartney: yes. We still need you. And even with triple digit ticket prices, yes, we'll still feed you.



Susannigans
By Susannah Clark,
Editor in Chief

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It's hard to enjoy a
concert when the
performer clearly
isn't.
”



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Get on your knees,
scumbag!



And submit your
opinions to
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Entertainment

Summer Blockbusters Return

Johnny Depp Not up to Par in "Public Enemies"

By KATIE B. O'CONNOR
Staff Writer

It is always fascinating to see a real person you know almost nothing about depicted on the silver screen. It's even more fascinating when that person led a life largely consisting of crime, violence and great sex. "Public Enemies," a biopic of the infamous bank robber John Dillinger who wreaked havoc on the FBI during the Depression, satisfies that desire on all three counts.

The film opens with a daring prison escape orchestrated by Dillinger. Unfortunately, this scene is one of the best and sets the bar a bit too high for the next two hours. A hand-held camera coupled with quick cuts ensures that the audience feels the tension and excitement of a situation teetering on the brink of disaster. Unfortunately, the hand-held is used throughout the film to tiresome and dizzying results and spoiling what, if it had been used sparingly, could have been a really nice effect.

The screenplay is as jilted as the camerawork; all of the criminals are indistinguishable, and their relationships with one another are fuzzy at best. "Baby-Face" Nelson (Stephen Graham) is advertised to be one of the main characters, yet by simply popping in and out of scenes in an exhausting whirlwind of mania, he seems more like an overly enthusiastic brat than anything else. Johnny Depp phones in his performance of

the devilishly charming Dillinger, relying heavily on extreme close-ups of his brooding eyes and furrowed brow to relay emotion. Dillinger's growing agitation through the film reads less like a criminal's fear of being cornered and more like Depp's cathartic dealing with a career that has plateaued.

One redeeming aspect of Depp's performance is his chemistry with Marion Cotillard who plays Billie Frechette, Dillinger's love interest. Dillinger's unwavering loyalty to Frechette is truly touching, and it is the love between these two characters that fuels the last forty minutes of the film.



Jason Clarke is wonderful as John "Red" Hamilton, who is Dillinger's only real friend. A soothing presence in the film, Hamilton cares for Dillinger whenever he seems to be teetering on the edge of desperation.

Christian Bale as Detective Melvin Purvis is sadly forgettable. Despite some clever exchanges with J. Edgar Hoover (Billy Crudup) and a moving scene where he rescues Frechette from an abusive interrogation, Purvis falls flat as a character. In the end, Johnny Depp makes his films synonymous with pizza and sex: When it's great, it's really great. And even if it's not that great, it's still pretty good.



image courtesy of johnnydepp.com

"Drag Me to Hell" Worth Being Dragged to See

By THOMAS ELLA
Staff Writer

For every great film like "Army of Darkness" that Sam Raimi delivers, he always manages to churn out atrocities like "Spider-Man 3" to keep his fans wary. With this caveat in mind, Raimi's newest horror flick, "Drag Me to Hell," more than exceeds expectations.

When doe-eyed Christine Brown (Alison Lohman) denies a decrepit gypsy (Lorna Raver) a third extension on her mortgage, the gypsy curses her to be taken to Hell in three days to burn for eternity. Talk about overreacting. The film lets you know exactly what you're in for within the first few minutes: a checklist of horror movie clichés that somehow still manages to be entertaining. Pots and pans rattle to signify an evil presence, camera angles tilt for action shots, and my personal favorite, flashlights fail to work at the worst possible times.

"Drag Me to Hell" is an unabashedly campy horror flick. Comedic moments occasionally come so far out of left field that it's still unclear whether many of them were intentional or not. At one point, Christine literally defends herself with a conveniently-located hanging anvil in her shed with no explanation as to why she keeps a hanging anvil in her shed.

There are so many melodramatic close-ups punctuated by sad piano melodies that it borders on hilarity.

Lohman nails the sweet, innocent horror movie stereotype routine, yet any time the script calls for more than a puppy dog look as the camera zooms in, she falters. Justin Long (the Mac guy) gives a pretty good performance as Lohman's loving, yet slightly cynical boyfriend but is still impossible to take seriously in this role for no other reason than because he is Justin Long.

While the film isn't particularly scary, it does maintain tension throughout. There are enough "jump" moments to make "Drag Me to Hell" a great date movie too, as long as neither person gets grossed out too easily. To put it mildly, so many disgusting things go into Christine's mouth that it nearly becomes a running gag to see what will go in next.

Overall, "Drag Me to Hell" is an enjoyably self-aware horror movie that balances tension with enough comedic outbursts to keep it fun throughout.

Cheap Seats Screenings:

"Public Enemies" -- Sept. 16, 18-19

"Drag Me to Hell" -- Sept. 18-19

Admission: \$1

Check cheapseats.umwblogs.org for times and locations.



image courtesy of cinemaverdict.com



Off The RECORD



album art courtesy of amazon.com

By CHRIS DONAHER
Staff Writer

The xx are a band that aren't afraid to get sexual. Their self-titled debut album is so steeped in sexual tension and intimacy that there isn't a single track that grants the listener respite. As a 4-piece London band hailing from the same musical school that brought the world fellow dancefloor craftsmen Hot Chip, The xx have quickly been gaining support both in the UK and internationally on the strength of their music's infectious and impactful structure.

Each track is an exchange, a private dialogue between vocalist Oliver Sim and his foil Romy Croft. Despite this often-weighty lyrical arrangement, the mellow pairing of the sullen Sim with the fainter voice of Croft feels perfectly suited to the bare-bones instrumentation beneath.

The songs can range from intimate discourses on longing in "VCR" to tracks like "Crystalized" that exude a heat-of-the-moment need. There is something both personal and exposed resting on the down-tempo guitar echoes and dampened percussion, which on "XX" benefits from their sparsity. Rather than use excessive

layering, each track relies on a drum machine and interwoven guitar melodies to complement the lyrical momentum.

There are no dance tracks on this album—no party tunes—but The xx have succeeded in bringing compelling lyrics together with contemplative accompaniment to make a memorable compilation. The album slows down during the latter half, where the songs become more emotionally careful and reserved, but it inevitably feels more like a coherent decision than an effect of weak songwriting.

For a debut album, "XX" is mature and thoughtful. "Islands" is a wistful and hopeful take on burning bridges and finding a person with whom you can truly identify. In "Shelter," Romy speaks of a desire to fulfill expectations, despite a fear of the consequences. The xx do not attempt to address the listener directly but instead provide a window into the duo's interactions.

Taken as a down-tempo pop album, "XX" succeeds because it is honest and real. As an independent album, it succeeds in its ability to garner such a massive amount of positive press from such humble beginnings. As the first album from the xx, it succeeds in being arguably one of the best albums of 2009.

"XX"

By: The xx



Snow Leopard Top of Mac Food Chain

By BRYANT MATERA
Staff Writer

Snow Leopard, Apple's newest operating system, is more of an evolution than a revolution, or rather, an exercise in fine tuning. Changes between Snow Leopard and its predecessor are largely subtle and under the hood, but the included upgrades are well worth Snow Leopard's cost. Coming in at a minuscule \$30, outrageous by operating system standards, Snow Leopard is a feature-packed update of Apple's popular Mac OS X. The installation process takes less than an hour and is completely painless, requiring the user to do no more than insert the disk and click "Install."

Some retail chains, like Best Buy, have introduced promotions offering to install Snow Leopard for consumers for a fee. Honestly, it is so simple you should just do it yourself and save the money and the hassle.

Like its predecessor, Snow Leopard works well with all of UMW's systems, so you shouldn't have any new hang-ups accessing your email or Blackboard accounts. Despite a host of new and improved functionalities, Snow Leopard actually manages to be seven gigabytes smaller than its previous incarnation (less than half the size of Leopard), leaving room for thousands more songs, photos and other multimedia.

Snow Leopard comes preloaded with the newest version of the internet browser Safari and also features a completely reworked and more agile Finder, which is essentially Apple's version of the My Documents feature on all PCs. Apple's Time Machine software, a feature which allows users to back up their hard drive, is now almost

80% faster, according to Apple.

Expose and Stacks have both been revamped and are easier to use. Logging in and shutting down, processes which were already remarkably fast using Leopard, are now almost instantaneous with Snow Leopard. iChat, Apple's video chatting software that can be used in tandem with instant messaging programs like AIM, now boasts a higher resolution capability, making web-cam

calls to your friends and family much clearer and smoother than before.

Snow Leopard also comes with the new and incredibly streamlined video player QuickTime X, which features a more minimalist interface.

Those hoping for major superficial changes to the overall "look" of your Mac will be disappointed, however. Snow Leopard is physically identical to its slower sibling, so do not expect a shocking Microsoft XP to Microsoft Vista type of transition.

The only issue I've experienced had to do with my MacBook Pro's screen settings; Snow Leopard reset my existing preferences and shut down the screen after one minute of inactivity. This, however, was a very simple fix.

In short, everything about Snow Leopard is faster, more stable, more streamlined, more accessible and more responsive, but it honestly isn't anything you couldn't live without. Still, if you have \$30 to spend, Snow Leopard is well worth the upgrade.



photo courtesy of neurosoftware.ro

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Entertainment

WMWC Lives

By **LONDON JAMES**
Staff Writer

The WMWC is the best radio station you probably have never heard of.

Located in the Eagle's Nest, directly across from The Washroom, WMWC is the University's student-run radio station channeling airwaves all day long. However, the station is making some changes to make the listening experience even better.

Andrew Allingham, music director for the radio station, said the station is looking for a new computer in hopes of digitizing the entire library and even recording podcasts.

"With a new computer we can have better music playing all the time," said Allingham.

Currently the station uses a 6-disc CD-changer to manage all play lists and tracks while broadcasting 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The radio station, which originally was located in Lee Hall, once used an FM transmitter so that people could pick up the station around Fredericksburg. However, when Lee Hall was

shut down for renovation, the radio station was moved and the station lost its transmitting license.

In order to tune into the station now you must access the official WMWC website at www.wmwc.org. At the site you can listen to what is currently being broadcast from the station, blogs, music reviews, DJ schedules and much more.

According to Allingham, the station records whatever it plays to send to the College Music Journal. The WMWC receives most of their new CDs from the CMJ. However, anyone can bring in a CD of themselves for the radio station to play.

"As long as the CD is radio-friendly," Allingham commented.

Also, be on the lookout for events on campus hosted by the radio station this semester. The crew at WMWC is working with Director of Student Activities Joe Mollo to coordinate more events and currently holds dance parties on select Thursdays during the month at The Underground. Come this fall, the radio station is expecting to put on a folk festival.

Also, be ready to show your WMWC pride come the weekend of Sept. 25 when WMWC t-shirts will once again be available for purchase.

If you are interested in hosting your very own radio show it is not too late, according to Allingham. While the slots are still open, simply visit the station's website and get tuned in. You can also subscribe to their mailing list to stay in the loop.

So, before the downtime of a new school year gives way to midterms, take some time to relax and listen to what the WMWC's creative DJ's have to spin on the radio, but do not forget to visit the website to get the full package.



Ryan Marr / The Bulletin

Endless rows of CDs line the walls of the campus radio station.

SHOWS TO CHECK OUT:

Metal: Brian Wood- Friday, 8-9 p.m.

Eric- Friday, 4-5 p.m.

Connor Whitaker- Thursday, 11-12 p.m.

Indie Rock: Sarah Kelley- Monday, 3-4 p.m.

Emily Harris- Thursday, 10-11 p.m.

Lo-Fi: Andrew Allingham- Monday, 9-10 p.m.

Eclectic: Jeremy Lay- Tuesday, 11-12 p.m.

Brit-pop: Nora Bessey- Wednesday, 8-9 p.m.



Ryan Marr / The Bulletin

WMWC staff pose front of the station in the Woodard Campus Center. From left: Will Loring, Andrew Allingham, Sarah Kelly, Jeremy Lay, Joe Calpin, Connor Whitaker and Emily Harris.

Log on to wmwc.org for a live stream of the campus radio station.

Bullet Points

Thursday, September 10

- WMWC-hosted dance party at The Underground. The beat drops at 10 p.m.
- Open-mic night at the Griffin Bookshop and Coffee Bar (723 Caroline St.) from 7 -9 p.m. (540) 899-8041 or www.thegriffinbookshopcoffeebar.com for more information.

Friday, September 11

- The Vermilions make their Underground debut at 9 p.m. (see inset)
- Fredericksburg's own The Green Boys bring their Americana-tinged bluegrass to Sammy T's (801 Caroline St.) at 10 p.m. \$7 for 21 and under, \$5 for 21+ (540) 371-2008 for more information.

Saturday, September 12

- Nashville songwriter Bonnie Bishop brings her rootsy brand of soul to Kybecca Wine Bar (400 William St.) at 9 p.m. (540) 373-3338 or www.kybeccawinebar.com for more information.

- Karaoke in The Underground from 9:30 - 1:30 a.m.



Vermilions Take an Old School Approach to Modern Rock 'n Roll

By **EMMA MAX**
Staff Writer

Originally formed two years ago in Richmond, The Vermilions have found their way to Fredericksburg thanks to the efforts of UMW senior Jeremy Flax.

The band consists of Flax on guitar and lead vocals, Dan Hanyok on drums, David Miller on Bass, UMW senior Sam Protich on keyboards and UMW junior Kelsey Mayo on backing vocals. Though they frequenting now-closed-but-soon-to-reopen downtown music venue The Loft last year, The Vermilions will play their first performance at the Underground this Friday.

Influenced heavily by The White Stripes, The Stooges and Cream, Flax described the band's sound as an "edgy take on classic Americana." One of the many appealing aspects of the band's live set include lightening-tight guitar solos that imply a modern, edgy take on more traditional sounds. Their loud, up-tempo numbers are sure to draw a crowd and bring some noise to a quiet Friday night campus.

When asked what the most important thing students should know about the band before they go see the set, Flax said: "We sound like Chuck Berry on crack."

Sunday, September 13

- Class Council-sponsored Market Square Concert featuring UMW favorites OK Corral, Garnet Way and Kyle Marshall from 3 - 6 p.m. at the corner of William St. and Princess Anne St., across from Hyperion. Free music, free pizza, and free cups.

Monday, September 14

- Bingo Night at the Underground. Starts at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15

- Open Mic Night at the Underground. Starts at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16

- Students Educating and Empowering For Diversity (SEED) is hosting a barbecue on Ball Circle from 4 - 6 p.m.
- Cheap Seats will be showing "Public Enemies" in the Underground at 7 p.m.

Interested in promoting an event in Bullet Points?
Send an email to:
ryanlmarr@gmail.com

Features



Photos by Sara Marron and Courtesy of Rachel Hicks

Songs In The Key of Live

A Capella groups everywhere gain influence outside of college campuses.

By EMILIE BEGIN
Staff Writer

Harrison Roberts blows an E flat on the pitch pipe, an instrument which looks like a round harmonica that gives everyone their starting pitches. "Bv, ba bv ka."

Senior Forrest Marquisee, the vocal percussionist, beatboxes the epic opening drum line of Phil Spector's tune "Be My Baby," originally performed by the Ronettes, alongside the background harmonies of the sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Instead of Ronnie Spector on lead vocals, there's Carly Barron, who is now a graduated psychology major from the University of Mary Washington, singing, "The night we met I knew I needed you so..." The rest of Symfonics provide vocals that sound like the instruments heard on the original track, while swaying left and right and snapping their fingers during the chorus.

Barron was a member of Symfonics for all of her four years at UMW, and last spring, she sang her last concert. "I'm excited, but a little sad and nostalgic. I'm ready to graduate, but I'll be sad when [the concert] is over," she said.

The faculty/staff dining room at Seacobeck Dining Hall, located on the campus of the University of Mary Washington, was filled with chitchat and lip-trill scales that Symfonics does to warm up their voices. A 24-pack of water on one of the chairs is less than half-full as the group makes sure that their vocal chords are in good shape.

It's at this point where Roberts, a senior and the Music Director last Spring, starts thinking whether or not he has prepared everyone enough.

"We messed it up the last time we practiced it. Do we wanna run some-

See REDEFINING page 8 ▶

Student Artist Paints As a Way of Life

By SARA MARRON
Staff Writer

Mary Washington transfer student turned local artist, Rachel Hicks, finds the University Café as an outlet to display her passion for art.

Hicks, who attended Longwood University for two years, found the artistic scene there not expansive enough for her goals.

Fredericksburg, according to Hicks, has much more to offer. "I got here and things were so exciting, within two weeks I had set up my own art show here at the University Café," Hicks said.

"Longwood didn't have many galleries," she said. "All the galleries downtown [in Fredericksburg] are really nice. I was surprised, I never thought people would be so open-minded."

Hicks said that at first she found art to be difficult.

"In high school, academics were easy. Nothing would challenge me," she said.

So instead, she turned to art to give her that edge. But the challenge that art presented was worth it.

"I picked up art and I wasn't good at it. That's the only reason I stuck around."

Hicks also works as a server at the University Café, where her art is currently on display.

"The cool thing about both having my art displayed here and working here is that if anyone has a question, I'm here to answer and explain to them," Hicks said.

As a junior at Mary Washington, she is working towards degrees in art and education.

She also plans to continue selling and promoting her art.

"I don't want to be a starving artist," Hicks said. "I want to be able to support my dirty little hobby of art."

Being a teacher would get me on my feet."

Smiling, Hicks discussed her passion for art that has grown into a lifestyle.

"If I don't paint or draw at least an hour a day I feel off."

Hicks said, "I get these moments when I want to paint so bad it burns. I painted one night after I got off work at midnight until 6 a.m. I had to go back to work at 7 a.m."

Hicks uses color, cross-hatching, and mixed mediums, calling her art an expression of herself.

"I used to use strictly black and white, but recently, I will sit for an hour and a half mixing 30 colors when I only use five," Hicks said. "People react to color, we live in color."

I get these moments when I want to paint so bad it burns.

— Rachel Hicks

Underground Rated 8 of 10

By BRIDGET BALCH
Staff Writer

After three years of students having only Seacobeck and the Eagles Nest as the only on-campus dining and hang out spots, The Underground has finally opened.

It's cool, relaxing atmosphere provides a fresh place for students to spend their time.

Senior John Gordon Corrigan pointed out that before, the only place for students to hang out was the Washroom, which he unceremoniously labeled "lame."

However, he describes The Underground as "Really classy" and "A great place to hang out."

Located in Lee Hall, right in the center of campus, The Underground's ambience and tasty array of food and beverages make it the place to be.

"[The Underground is] a great

place to hang out with friends and talk," freshman Abby Kimmitt said.

She and a group of friends were busy laughing and chatting over a game of Taboo, one of various board games available for check out.

The funky lighting and constant background music sets the Underground apart from the Eagle's Nest by creating a fun, event-centered mood.

With a built-in stage, sound system, and dance floor, the Underground is the perfect setting for just about any event.

"There's always something going on," Elizabeth Spaulding, Underground employee said.

With everything from concerts to karaoke, there is something going on for everyone.

However, certain events don't seem to bring in so many people.

"The place is dead," fresj.am Rossanna Cúahan said. She remem-

bered sitting in the nearly empty room during a concert one night.

Bingo Night, on the other hand, filled the room to capacity.

Freshman Robbie Clark identified it as one of his favorite events he attend.

"[The Underground] usually gets pretty crowded on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights," Spaulding said.



Kelsey Mayo/Bullet

Juniors Townsend Hart and Margaux Delong and sophomore Amanda Johnson hang out and catch up at The Underground that opened this semester.

As far as the quality of the food, the general consensus is that it is exceptionally good.

Catahan gives it nine out of ten. "The cookies are so good!" she

said.

"The smoothies are great and a popular choice," Spaulding said.

See DINING, page 8 ▶

Features

Foer's Second is 'Extremely Loud'

By JORDAN KROLL
Staff Writer

"Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" is the story of nine-year-old Oskar Schell's mission to discover the lock that goes with a key belonging to his father who died in the World Trade Center on September 11. Written by acclaimed author Jonathan Safran Foer ("Everything is Illuminated"), this novel is able to capture the spirit of a child while maintaining the ability to make the reader ask questions about an event many of us try not to think about.

Oskar goes on a journey throughout New York City's five boroughs on his impossible quest and doesn't come out of the search with a greater understanding of his father that he expected. Like many stories in which the protagonist embarks on some sort of journey with a specific goal in mind, Foer ensures that Oskar gets more out of his exploration, rather than simply reach-

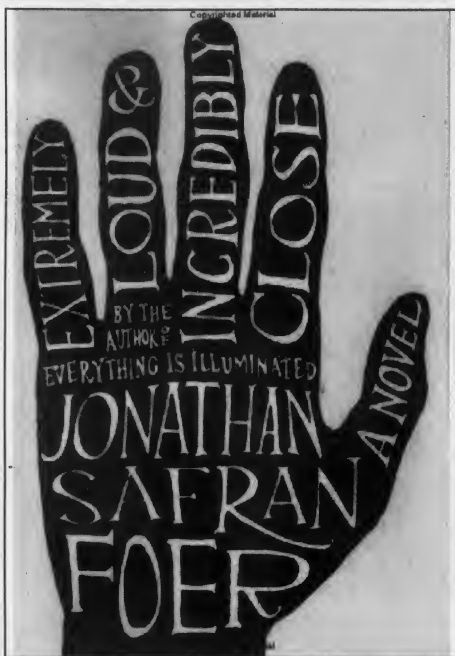
ing the destination. While a cliché concept in and of itself, Foer's ability to create a reliable narrator out of an over-educated nine-year-old "inventor" and include small, yet poignant details throughout the text elevates what could be a predictable story of love, loss, and self-discovery into something more.

Intertwined with Oskar's narrative is the tale of his paternal grandparents. It begins with how they met in Germany before World War II and progresses to present-day so that this story converges with Oskar's. Although the story's jumps could be confusing and abrupt for some, it's generally easy to follow and acts as another device employed by Foer to ensure that his novel is more interesting than most.

Another unique method Foer uses to enhance this work is his inclusion of photographs, drawings, and different typefaces peppered throughout the book. Dubbed as a foray into "contem-

porary postmodernism," these pictures provide readers with a deeper insight into the minds of the narrators. Often emotionally jarring, these pictures interrupt the text in a way that causes one to focus more on smaller details that may have been overlooked in the text itself. Some may consider Foer's experimentation with imagery too gimmicky, but it's presence doesn't subtract from the overall story.

There are few well-done novels that revolve around 9/11 because it is still "too soon" in many respects, but Foer is able to overcome that and create a sensitive and, at times, humorous account of how such a universal event affected one family so uniquely. Through likeable, distinct characters, a complex narrative, and interesting additions like pictures, Jonathan Safran Foer has guaranteed "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" a spot in the modern-day literary canon.



Courtesy of google.com

Redefining A Capella

SONGS, page 7

thing over again, or are we going to rock this?"

Roberts has taped multiple sheets of paper on the ground that have tonight's song order so group members don't draw a blank when they're supposed to be singing "Saint Simon" by the Shins, or "White Winter Hymnal" by the Fleet Foxes.

Symfonics is one of three a cappella groups at UMW. They have been around since 1991 and have released four CD's in that time.

A cappella, though popular at UMW, seems like a mere hobby when comparing it to the scene at other schools.

A few hours away at the College of William and Mary, which only has 1500 more students than UMW, there are 11 groups and a student-run council devoted to governing these groups. William and Mary, along with James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, hold auditions for their a cappella groups the way one would rush for a fraternity or sorority, by having students and groups list their preferences, resulting in matches.

A movement that was once limited to the Ivy League schools, there are now more than 1,200 collegiate and high school a cappella groups in the country, according to a recent *Boston Globe* article. A cappella groups aren't your traditional choirs at all. For one thing, instead of having everyone sing the lyrics, you have one soloist while the other group members mimic instruments, using syllables such as "doo ba jin da." The oldest college a cappella group, the Yale Whiffenpoofs, are celebrating their 100th anniversary, and while they've kept the

traditions of singing standards and wearing suits alive, most groups have ditched the old look and cover contemporary songs. A cappella music, once limited to arch sings (which refers to the arch shape the group stands in to improve the acoustic sound) around campus and town, has experienced a move into mainstream in the past ten years.

The *Globe* article points out that in the last two years alone, NBC has given the greenlight on a reality television competition involving a cappella groups, titled "The Sing Off," and GQ Magazine writer Mickey Rapkin released a book titled "Pitch Perfect," sort of a "Pledged" for the a cappella set, which chronicled the journeys of three different a cappella groups over the course of a year. The book has recently been optioned by "30 Rock" writer Kay Cannon, in the hopes of becoming a movie.

In addition to on the screen and in print, a cappella music has achieved major record deals. Members of the original lineup of Indiana University's Straight No Chaser signed a recording contract with Atlantic Records after their "12 Days of Christmas" video, which had been recorded at a concert during their college years, received millions of hits on YouTube.

Their debut holiday album sold 100,000 copies and was at the top of the iTunes charts last year. In addition to groups making it big, many alumni of a cappella groups are now famous, including Sara Bareilles, John Legend and Art Garfunkel.

Last April, acclaimed singer/songwriter (and recent Mary Washington visitor) Ben Folds released a new album, but he only sang two tracks on it. Folds chose, after scouting for tal-



Photo Courtesy of Kelsey Mayo

UMW A Capella group Symfonics performs live music for an audience on campus.

ent through YouTube videos, fourteen a cappella groups from various colleges, and even one high school group, to record covers of his songs. Folds got the idea for the album after seeing online videos of his songs being covered by a bunch of these groups. Ben Folds is probably the most covered artist by a cappella groups. Symfonics, in fact, did a cover of Ben Folds Five's "Brick" last year.

With a cappella groups, there is no superior that is above everyone to keep it together, one of the reasons why an a cappella group has the feel of a fraternity or a team, something senior Matt Thorsen believes, you don't get in a choral setting.

"I feel like as a team it's much easier to achieve things that you and everyone else in the group really wants to achieve, while in a choir I feel like a lot of that is up to a director," he said.

Instead of looking to just your director for an energy boost, you're looking at your groupmates' faces.

Senior Angela Francis sees this as one of her favorite parts of being a Symfonic.

"We look at each other and smile, because we know we sound awesome and we know the work we've done has paid off," she said.

The group went over parts of a few of their tricky songs in the Faculty

Dining Room while downing water bottles. The emotions in the cramped room were very mixed.

"The nerves kind of just subside once I realize how much fun the show is about to be," senior Lauren Thorsen said.

Teams have a cheer before their games, and so do Symfonics. Minutes before the concert, they gathered around in the conference room, and proceeded to do a clapping cheer, with the seniors leading. "What time is it?" The others responded with, "Game time!" Claps erupted from the audience as Bottle announced, "Please welcome Symfonics!"

Dining Under

UNDERGROUND, page 7

The deli-style salads and sandwiches, each of which is named after a different building on campus, give the Underground a distinctly UMW feel.

Spaulding recommends one of her favorites, the Meltdown, which is a delectable pile of capicola, pepperoni, honey ham, provolone, hot pepper relish, lettuce, tomato, and Italian dressing on oven fired flat bread.

The special names don't appeal to everyone, however.

Junior Elizabeth Emmel said that she likes the selection, but finds the idea of eating food named after a smelly freshman dorm somewhat unappetizing.

As for the coffee, "It's no Hyperion, but it's better than Starbucks," Kimmitt said.

Also, the fact that The Underground serves alcohol makes it a place of particular interest to those who are over 21.

One obvious downside of The Underground is that it does not accept the meal plan as a form of payment.

Many students find this extremely annoying, but not enough so to completely cut the Underground food out of their diet.

Whether you're looking for a laid back place to talk with friends or a dance floor to show off your moves, the Underground provides a great environment for students to have fun with friends.

With its hip atmosphere, various events, and delicious food, the verdict on the Underground is that it's a hit. I give it an eight out of ten.

Classifieds

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News

Outside the Fence



By HEATHER BRADY
Staff Writer

Regional

A Richmond man was arrested and nearly shot after he tried to run over a Spotsylvania deputy following a pursuit early Sunday, police said. Michael Wayne Covington, 61, was charged with attempted capital murder and other offenses, Sheriff's spokeswoman Liz Scott said. (*The Free Lance-Star*, Sept. 9; www.fredericksburg.com)

National

The makers of a recent political documentary about Hillary Clinton sought a Supreme Court ruling that would reverse precedents allowing restrictions for all sorts of corporations. (*The New York Times*, Sept. 9; www.nytimes.com)

Global

Stephen Farrell, a New York Times reporter held captive by militants in northern Afghanistan, was freed in a military commando raid early Wednesday, but his Afghan interpreter, a British commando and an Afghan woman were killed in the raid. (*The New York Times*, Sept. 9; www.nytimes.com)

Governor Cuts School Budget

◀ BUDGET, page 1

in a strong financial position."

"I am confident this great institution and our fine employees will be able to sustain the high quality educational experience which students and parents have come to expect of us," Hample wrote.

According to Richard Hurley, vice president of student affairs, the administration had anticipated more budget cuts this year, but no decisions have been made as to where the cuts will come from. Hurley and Hample plan to meet in the coming week to discuss a course of action.

"Our priorities are campus safety and security, the instructional side of the institution and student health, especially in light of H1N1," Hurley said in an interview on Wednesday.

Projects that will not be affected by the budget cuts, he added, include the construction at Eagle Village and the upcoming renovations to Mason and Randolph Halls, both of which have separate funding.

"For last year's cut, we reduced the operating budgets on the non-instructional side of the institution, meaning that we protected the academic side—faculty and departmental budgets and faculty salary lines and things of that sort," Hurley said.

Last year, the administration imposed a faculty hiring freeze in response to the 8 percent cut.

"There are 16 or so positions that we froze last year, and those will remain empty," Hurley said.

Last year's budget reduction did not cut into Student Finance, according to Hurley. At this year's financial training session for UMW clubs, a student member of the Finance Committee announced that OSACS's funding was \$20,000 more than

in the fall semester of 2008.

"Any decision that we make will be made by the end of the month," Hurley said, adding that the cuts would go into effect "immediately."

Professor Mary Rigbsy, president of the Faculty Senate, is certain that the Senate will discuss the budget cuts will at their next meeting, scheduled for October.

In regard to impact on professors during past budget crunches, Rigbsy said that faculty development money, which funds travels and research, was cut. She added that professors have found ways to cut down on spending, including relying more on e-mail and Blackboard correspondences and cutting down on paper use.

"We've all found ways to manage the budget," Rigbsy said of past years.

Hurley said that while faculty cuts are possible for next year, the administration is trying their best not to dip in the academic departments at Mary Washington.

Rigbsy said professors at Mary Washington took action to oppose firings during last year's budget cuts.

"The faculty took a strong stand on urging the President not to lay people off," Rigbsy said. "I think that we can have confidence in President Hample."

While Hurley is optimistic about protecting faculty positions, he acknowledged that the cuts would have to come from somewhere.

"Upkeep of the campus is always at risk," he said. "Student Affairs has endured their share of the cuts in the past and it is my guess that they will be getting more."

Rigbsy said the budget cuts would not affect the intimate classroom dynamic between faculty and students.

"That part of Mary Washington life [would] be the last thing to be changed," she said.

Health Center On Alert for Flu Cases

◀ FLU, page 1

"University of Maryland researchers deliberately co-infected ferrets to examine one of the worst fears about the new swine flu," the article said. "But fortunately, the flu didn't mutate...The animals who caught both kinds of flu, however, had worse symptoms. And they easily spread the new swine flu, what scientists formally call the 2009 H1N1 virus, to their uninfected ferret neighbors, but didn't spread regular winter flu strains nearly as easily."

New Research shows, Riley said, that students had the greatest chance of contracting the swine flu strain over other strains.

"Recent studies have shown that if you get both the seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 flu at the same time, you will only

become sick with the 2009 H1N1 flu," he added.

Students on college campuses like Mary Washington are at an increased risk of getting the virus, according to Riley.

"Living in a residential hall with close exposure to more people is a risk compared to living at home," Riley said. "With frequent use of the dining hall, class rooms, fitness center and public bathrooms, you are more likely to touch surfaces touched by others."

There are several suggestions Riley had for avoiding the flu, including avoidance of ill persons and of sharing food, drinks, water bottles and utensils. He also emphasized the use of alcohol-based hand gel and soap in preventing the flu.

"Wash your hands often," Riley said.

Program Helps Students Transition to College Life

◀ DIVERSITY, page 2

college classes.

"Looking back, I'm seeing real benefits," freshman Kellen Latif said. "It put us ahead of the game. We were actually in the classroom and we were able to see how it would be when we started in the fall."

"They rise to the occasion over the summer," Thompson said.

Freshman Joanna Park found the fall semester to be less stressful than the summer courses. The academic preparation she had received during STP enabled her to adjust well to the start of freshman year.

"When I came here, it wasn't hard to settle in," Park said. "Classes were a lot more pressured during STP."

In addition to becoming acclimated to the University's academic environment, the students also got the opportunity to bond. They participated in team-building activities and got a chance to get know each other before the beginning of the fall semester.

Khanal said that being able to say hello to her fellow STP participants during orientation week made her feel comfortable. To know 60 people as an incoming freshman is helpful, Latif said.

STP participants also described the upperclassmen counselors as supportive and helpful, and said they advised the incoming freshmen on choosing their schedules.

Many student participants said that the program not only benefits the individuals that participated, but also helps the University to incorporate greater diversity into its community.

"The program is trying to fill gap in diversity at UMW... I think it's beneficial to the school," Khanal said.

Freshman Tyshawnda Silver said the program brought people closer together. She said she enjoyed "just seeing a group of minorities, a diverse group of people, under one roof [that] have to learn how to like each other."

Thompson noted Hample's role in encouraging a more diverse student body and the effect on UMW as a whole.

"I think the program incorporates diversity," Thompson said. "I think we're moving forward under the leadership of Dr. Hample. I think everybody will enjoy the cultural environment here... I think it is beneficial to the whole community."

"We think they [the students in STP] are going to be great," she added. "They have great leadership and great experiences."

Cox said the program's objective is to acclimate students to the college academic environment.

"It's a way of recruiting and retaining students... They're passing," she said. "They're succeeding. They're graduating."

Local Unemployment Rates Hurt Students

◀ JOBS, page 1

DePumpo of the new Wegmans supermarket in Central Park said they received about 7,000 applications since January and provided around 400 jobs since its June opening. In less than two months, Wegmans was no longer hiring, yet they still received 100 applications a month.

Similarly, Manager Ashley Poe of Eileen's Café, who employs at least five college students, said they received about two applications on an average day, many of which are students. Representatives of 12 other local businesses, including Olive Garden, Best Buy, and American Eagle, all said they are taking applications but none are hiring.

Jobs on the UMW campus have followed suit.

"Particularly this summer, when usually we get a number of part time applications [from businesses]... we got next to none," Gary Johnson, career services director, said.

"I have a lot of applications... the minimum wage has risen three times, but our budget has not increased," Campus Employment Supervisor Angie Pitzer said.

She stresses for students to network with anyone, let everyone know they need work, and keep on searching in the hope something will become available.

Senior Courtney Chaplin, an employee at Logan's Roadhouse in Central Park, said that the economy has

affected her job.

"I definitely noticed a slow down... people are tightening up a bit," Chaplin said.

She said they had been several times where she would be cut from the floor only after two hours of work because of lack of business.

However, jobs are still available to students willing to search. Gary Johnson cites SnagAJob.com as a good resource for local part-time work; additionally, the internship database at the Career Services provides a healthy number of opportunities (unpaid labor is needed). Sodexo Manager John Deering said, "We are always trying to get students. [We] love working with [and] for students."

There are also numerous positions and five scholarship opportunities for employees of Sodexo.

Students that have graduated are having an even more difficult time. In the state of Virginia, the Project on Student Debt reports that 59 percent of students leave with debt at an average of \$18,084. On the national scale, student debt averages are reported to have risen 20 percent from 2004 to 2008 and the number of private loan borrowers rose from 935,000 in 2003-04 to almost 3 million in 2007-08.

"Fall looks better than summer... but students have to be extra aggressive... go to restaurant to restaurant, store to store. They are not going to be aggressive for you," Johnson said.



Kelsey Mayo/Bulletin

Meal Time Zones Eliminated; Students Respond Positively

◀ MEALS, page 2

can use meals whenever you want, and don't have to wait until the next meal zone. However, last week, I ran out of meals because I didn't realize how many I was using."

This new option benefits all students and is an improvement from last year, according to sophomore Erin Berry.

"It provides an option for those students on campus who do not have normal schedules, and is profitable for the school because students are now more likely to use the dining facilities," Berry said.

"I like the idea of no meal time zones," junior Michelle Cole said. "I used to have the problem that I wanted a snack around 4 p.m., but when I wanted dinner around 8 p.m., I realized I used the meal at 4 p.m., so I had to use EagleOne or Flex."

Junior Meg Baker said that one possible flaw is how the dining services employees do not ask whether students want to use multiple meals, or a meal and Flex.

"I've had them use two meals at the same time when I'd rather have paid the 50 cents in flex," Baker said.

Erma Baker said that the dining staff has been retrained and coached to make the students more aware of how many meals they have left that week. Students are always able to ask how many they have left. If a mistake is made, the dining staff can also fix it if it is brought to their attention.

Erma Baker wants to encourage students to visit different dining rooms to see the options available. Dining staff will rotate food options every few months. They also plan to change the stations every few months to help keep them interesting.

Compost Not So Rotten

◀ GREEN, page 1

said.

She added that they cannot wait to learn more and get UMW students excited about going green.

The composting program would not be a burden for Eagle's Nest and Seabeck employees, according to John Dering, general manager of dining services.

"[The dining team is] more than willing and more than excited to incorporate composting," Dering said.

"We want it to be convenient for everybody."

The kitchen already participates in sustainable practices, like using herbs from a small garden outside of Seabeck and featuring produce from local farmers.

According to the project's organizers, a possible obstacle is that the product of the process, fresh compost, is typically used for gardens, which are hard to maintain at universities because students are not generally on campus during the summer.

What's Up In Campus Dining?



Get To Know Us!

Meet Rose Benedict, Marketing Specialist

Rose first came to work for us in 2005 as our Catering Administrative Assistant. For the last two years she has been our Marketing Specialist and has truly become an integral part of our campus dining team. Rose implements and publicizes our special events and programs for students, prepares our newsletters, maintains our web site and internet communications, and serves as a Customer Advocate for our dining guests. Rose has a passion for people and loves finding ways to make everyone's dining experience a fun and memorable occasion. In recognition for her outstanding customer service, we selected Rose as our Circle of Customer Excellence (CoCE) Star for June. She was later chosen as the CoCE Star for our District and Region, before ultimately being selected as the June CoCE Star for the entire Campus Services Division of Sodexo! Rose is usually on hand in the Seacobeck dining rooms during lunch service to assist our guests. Please say "hello" the next time you see her, and be sure to let her know if you have any questions, have suggestions on ways to improve our service, or would like to help with our special events.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 10: Our Red Hot Chef presents Funnel Cake Straws, a "Student's Choice" Selection! Ranked #3 in a vote by students from across the Nation! South Market- 5 to 7 PM.

September 15: Indian Heritage Celebration Feature. Enjoy curry specialties in the South Market as we celebrate Indian culture and cuisine. 5 - 7 PM.

September 16: "MEX TO THE MAX" FIESTA!! South Market, 5 to 7 PM.
Join us as we kick off our celebration of Hispanic Heritage month with Latin music and authentic Mexican dishes! Our recipes were created by renowned Mexican chef and restaurateur Roberto Santibanez, and will delight one and all. Student guests may enter our drawing to win great prizes, including the Grand Prize of a private dinner party for 10! Watch for more "Mex To The Max" features every Wednesday through October 7 - and more chances to enter the drawing!

Go to our web site for more info! www.umwdining.com
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Sports



UMW Sports Weekend Recap

In Case You Missed It...

Major Victories Over The Weekend

Field Hockey

09/05- #8 Lebanon Valley (4-3)

Women's Soccer

09/04- McDaniel College (4-0)

09/06- Eastern Mennonite University (1-0)

Men's Soccer

09/05- McDaniel College (3-2)

Volleyball

09/04- Christopher Newport (3-1)

River College (3-0)

09/05- St. Joseph's College (3-0)

By ZACH MORETTI
Staff Writer

It was a busy weekend for the sports teams of Mary Washington. Nine games were played between four different sports teams.

The men's soccer team had two hard fought games over the weekend and they went 1-1 in those contests. The team fell to Eastern Mennonite University 1-0 on Saturday in a tough overtime loss. The Eagles out shot the Royals 12-7, had more shots on goal (5-4), and held the corner kicks edge 7-2, but they couldn't capitalize. Eastern Mennonite freshman midfielder Mitchell Leap scored in the 98th minute to hand UMW their second loss of the year. The soccer team rebounded from Saturday's loss with a 3-2 victory over McDaniel College on Sunday. UMW junior forward Corey Sims had a hand in all three goals, as he scored one and assisted on the other two. Senior midfielders Matt Lawrey and Ryan Taibl also scored to help the Eagles notch their first victory of the young season.

The women's soccer team had a good weekend, as they went 2-0 in their games. The first victory came at home on Friday as Mary Washington demolished McDaniel College 4-0. Senior midfielder Kate Parvin scored two goals to lead the Eagles and the defense and sophomore goalie Tina Brehm combined to shut down the Green Terror offense. The team followed that victory by edging Eastern Mennonite University 1-0 on Sunday. The lone goal of the game came late in the contest as junior forward Chrissy Reardon took a pass from sophomore forward Nicole Dierkes and punched it in to give UMW the road win. With their victories over the weekend, the Eagles improve to 3-0 on the season.

The volleyball team took part in the Holiday Inn Select Invitational and went 3-1. The team dropped their first set of the year to Christopher Newport University, but they recovered from their slow start as they went on to win the next three sets for a 3-1 victory. Their next opponent was against the host of the tournament,

Virginia Wesleyan College, and the team couldn't knock off the Marlins as they fell 3-1. UMW closed out with two

impressive victories over River College (3-1) and St. Joseph's College (3-0). Mary Washington senior Anne Lutkenhaus was named to the all-tournament team. She had 37 kills, 37 digs, and

11 aces in the teams four matches.

The most impressive victory this weekend was by the Eagles' field hockey team, who knocked off Lebanon Valley College 4-3. Despite being out shot 18-14, having less shots on goal (16-11), and having drastically fewer corner kicks (16-4), the Eagles were able to knock off the eighth ranked team in the country for field hockey. It was a close game throughout and the score was tied 2-2 at halftime, but Mary Washington junior midfielder Emma Jones' second goal of the game proved to be the difference in the upset.

This weekend reinforces that there is a lot to be excited about when it comes to the university athletics this fall. UMW sports teams went 7-2 in their competitions over the weekend and there are great players on every team that are worth going out and seeing.

This Week:

Men's Soccer: 09/12 Lynchburg College
Women's Soccer: 09/12 Gettysburg College
Volleyball: 09/16 Hood College
Field Hockey: 09/12 York College of Pennsylvania
Cross Country: 09/12 Washington & Lee Invitational



Courtesy of Ranny Corbin

NFL Playoff Picks

By ZACH MORETTI
Staff Writer

1st Round

Cowboys vs. Packers: These teams are pretty even, but Cowboys QB Tony Romo has playoff experience (albeit playoff failures) while Green Bay QB Aaron Rodgers has none. It's time the Cowboys break through and win a playoff game.

Bears vs. Seahawks: Chicago gets a good draw with Seattle. The Seahawks aren't that good but get into the playoffs because of their weak division. The Bears are simply a more complete team, and that's why they advance.

Titans vs. Steelers: The two meet in the first round of the playoffs for the second straight year, only this time in Pittsburgh. Heinz Field is a very tough place to play and the Steelers have a big edge at the QB position.

Ravens vs. Colts: Baltimore's defense should

slow the Colts some, but Peyton Manning and that offense are simply too strong to be shut down completely. It should be a close game, but the money is on Manning over Flacco in a late drive situation.

2nd Round

Cowboys vs. Saints: The Saints have home field advantage and their offense simply proves to be too much for Dallas as the Cowboys don't have the weapons to score with New Orleans.

Bears vs. Giants: The Bears got some confidence from their first round win and they aren't bothered by January weather in New York. Chicago has more weapons in the passing game and thus are the victors.

Steelers vs. Chargers: A rematch of last year's divisional match-up, except for this time the Chargers are victorious. With the game in San Diego and a healthy LaDainian Tomlinson, the Chargers are the better team.

Colts vs. Patriots: This classic matchup pits these rival teams and the two best QBs of this generation against one another. New England wins a shootout with another game winning drive by Tom Brady.

Championship Games

Bears vs. Saints: Chicago has the better defense but the Saints have the superior offense. The Bears good defense will slow down the Saints great offense while the New Orleans poor defense will only make Jay Cutler and the Chicago offense look better. The old saying goes that defense wins championships and that's why the Bears win.

Chargers vs. Patriots: Tom Brady and Phillip Rivers are both great QBs and both teams have good defenses. But in a game with probably the two most talented teams in the league, it comes down to coaching. No offense to Norv Turner, but Bill Belichick is a Hall of Fame coach and that's why the Pats win a close one.

Super Bowl

Bears vs. Patriots: New England isn't going to get this close again and lose like they did back in Super Bowl XLII. Jay Cutler will go on a nice run in his first playoff appearance, but seldom does one win it all on their first go-round. The Patriots have great coaching, a great quarterback and playoff experience, and that's why they win their fourth Super Bowl in the Brady/Belichick era.

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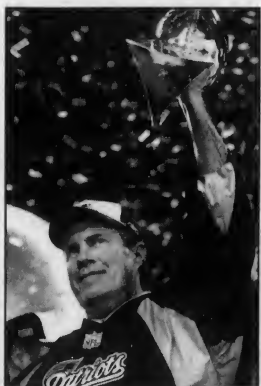
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Courtesy of Associated Press

The Patriots and head coach Bill Belichick look to win their fourth Super Bowl in the last nine years.

Sports

2009 NFL Preview - AFC

By ZACH MORETTI
Staff Writer

Last week was the first part of the NFL preview where the NFC was covered. This week the AFC is on tap, so let's get to it.

AFC East

1) **New England Patriots**- Tom Brady's 2008 season was over after only 7 minutes and 33 seconds. Now Brady is back, and looks to revert back to his 2007 form when he threw 50 touchdowns. He still has a great offensive line to protect him and dynamic receivers to throw to in Randy Moss and Wes Welker. The defense will have plenty of new faces, as they replace three starters in the secondary and they just traded star DE Richard Seymour. But big names have come and gone on the defense before and the unit hasn't suffered. Look for head coach Bill Belichick to lead New England to another AFC East title and possibly a Super Bowl.

2) **Miami Dolphins**- The Dolphins had a dream year in 2008 as they rebounded from a 1-15 season to win the AFC East. The big news offensively for Miami last year was the "Wildcat" offense and it should be interesting to see how that develops this season. Regardless, QB Chad Pennington will be the teams play caller and once again he leads a respectable offense. The running game should be the focal point of their offense with RBs Ronnie Brown and Ricky Williams sharing the load. The Dolphins have a solid defense with a good pass rush led by LB Joey Porter and a solid secondary directed by CB Will Allen. However, look for Miami to come back down to earth this year and miss the playoffs.

3) **New York Jets**- New head coach Rex Ryan is regarded as a great defensive mind and he has talent to work with on this team. They have an outstanding secondary with two elite CBs in Darrelle Revis and Lito Sheppard, a stellar line-backing corps built around Bart Scott and David Harris, and a beast in the middle of their defensive line in DT Kris Jenkins. The problem lies on the offense where they are starting a rookie QB in Mark Sanchez. Rookie quarterbacks really tend to struggle their first year (Matt Ryan and Joe Flacco are exceptions) and it's hard to see the Jets succeeding this year with him at the helm. RB Thomas Jones is still a solid weapon and the explosive Leon Washington is also in the mix, so the ground game should be good. The Jets may not be a playoff team this year, but they are a team to watch out for in 2010.

4) **Buffalo Bills**- The mayor of Buffalo gave new WR Terrell Owens the key to the city and in return asked for 10 touchdowns catches and a playoff berth for the Bills in 2009. That's what you call wishful thinking on the part of the mayor. Buffalo didn't have enough confidence in their offense to keep their offensive coordinator around for the regular season debut and while Owens could be a nice complement to WR Lee Evans, he is already experiencing toe problems. QB Trent Edwards is nothing more than a decent NFL QB and star RB Marshawn Lynch is suspended for the first three games of the year. Their defense isn't bad and has some talented pieces, specifically DT Marcus Stroud and DE Aaron Schobel. But the Bills will be an average team at best and the mayor will be asking Owens for that key back.

AFC South

1) **Indianapolis Colts**- Indianapolis may have a new head coach running things, but they still have QB Peyton Manning. Manning will have playmakers to work with in the passing game with WR Reggie Wayne, TE Dallas Clark, and young WR Anthony Gonzalez.



Patriots QB Tom Brady's 2008 season was short lived. But now that he's back healthy, Patriots fans feel like a Super Bowl is in reach.

The rushing attack should improve from last year, when RB Joseph Addai was hampered with injuries. The team drafted RB Donald Brown in the first round of the NFL draft to help keep Addai fresh and healthy and the pair should put up solid numbers. The defense always seems to be a question mark in Indy. SS Bob Sanders is talented, but still sidelined with a knee injury. The team has two good DEs in Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis and they should put constant pressure on opposing QBs. The Colts are a solid team and should retake the thrown as AFC South champs.

2) **Tennessee Titans**- This team's strength is still their defense, but that group has taken a step back from 2008. Tennessee lost star DT Albert Haynesworth in free agency and their defensive line is pretty old as a whole. Veteran Keith Bulluck is part of a solid group of linebackers and the secondary is very strong with two returning Pro Bowlers in CB Cortland Finnegan and SS Chris Hope. The offense is run-heavy and they have two backs that complement each



WR Santonio Holmes' touchdown catch late in the 4th quarter won the Steelers their record sixth Super Bowl. But can Pittsburgh repeat as champs this season?

other very well in Chris Johnson and LenDale White. QB Kerry Collins was a Pro Bowl selection last year, but don't let that fool you. The Titans are very limited in the passing game, and at age 36 it's fair to question whether or not Collins will be able to stay healthy. The Titans are still good and will be in the mix for a playoff berth, but they won't be able to repeat atop the AFC South.

3) **Houston Texans**- The Texans have the talent to be one of the top three offenses in the NFL. For that to happen though, QB Matt Schaub has to stay healthy. Schaub's top target will be WR Andre Johnson, who is one of the best receivers no one talks about, but he also has WR Kevin Walter coming off a very good season along with emerging TE Owen Daniels. Houston's ground game is nothing to sneeze at either, with the explosive RB Steve Slaton leading the charge. The defense isn't stellar, but they do have two blue chippers in DE Mario Williams and LB DeMeco Ryans. Houston is similar to the New Orleans Saints in that their defense only has to be decent for them to win games because they have such a prolific offense. Look for the Texans to be in the contention for a Wild Card spot come December.

4) **Jacksonville Jaguars**- The best player on this team is unquestionably RB Maurice Jones-Drew and he looks at a bigger role this season with the departure of RB Fred Taylor. But despite how talented Jones-Drew is, defenses will stack seven and eight guys in the box to stuff the run if QB David Garrard and the passing game can't make plays. The Jags added WR Tory Holt to help their passing attack and LT Tra Thomas was signed to help boost the offensive line. The team also selected offensive lineman with their first and second round picks in the NFL draft to try and further address that weakness. On defense they still have stud DT John Henderson and the secondary is solid shape with shut down CB Rashean Mathis and FS Reggie Nelson. But overall this team just isn't good enough, especially in this tough division.

AFC North

1) **Pittsburgh Steelers**- The Steelers look to defend their crown and they will once again be led by a superb defense. LB James Harrison won NFL defensive player of the year in 2008 and the defense also touts perennial all-pro safety Troy Polamalu. The signal caller is once again QB Ben Roethlisberger, but Pittsburgh should continue to be a run oriented team with RBs Willie Parker and Rashard Mendenhall splitting carries. The offensive line struggled last season and they need to do a better job protecting Roethlisberger to prevent him from taking so many big hits. But if the defending Super Bowl champs stay healthy, they should repeat atop the AFC North and contend for another Lombardi trophy.

2) **Baltimore Ravens**- Baltimore is similar to Pittsburgh in that the team is built around a great defense.

DT Haloti Ngata stuffs the run, LB Terrell Suggs racks up sacks, FS Ed Reed is a big playmaker in the secondary, and LB Ray Lewis tackles anything in sight. The reigns to the offense will belong to second year QB Joe Flacco, but again like Pittsburgh, the team will play primarily a grind-it-out running style. RBs Ray Rice and Willis McGahee should get a bulk of the carries and the team upgraded along the offensive line to help protect their young QB and open up holes for their backs. Baltimore is a solid team and they should certainly be in the playoff mix.

3) **Cincinnati Bengals**- WR Chad Ochocinco is confident in his

team this year as he guaranteed that the Bengals would make the playoffs. That may be a little much, but there is certainly room for optimism in Cincinnati this season now that fans see QB Carson Palmer healthy. Ochocinco will try to rebound from a terrible season last year and he will have even more pressure on him now with the departure of WR T.J. Houshmandzadeh. RB Cedric Benson was solid last season and should provide a decent ground game. The de-

fense is a problem as they have no blue chippers and thus will have to rely on a lot of unknowns to get the job done. This team can return to respectability if Palmer can stay healthy, but the playoffs seem to be a reach.

4) **Cleveland Browns**- Brady Quinn or Derek Anderson? That is the question most Browns fans have for new head coach Eric Mangini, yet Mangini is keeping his decision on the opening day starting QB under wraps. Whichever one he goes with, they will not have a lot to work with. WR Braylon Edwards is their best offensive weapon, but he struggled last year. The team parted ways with talented TE Kellen Winslow and RB Jamal Lewis is well past his prime. On defense, big DT Shaun Rogers and LB D'Qwell Jackson anchor the team in the middle. They should be OK defensively but will struggle on offense and won't win many games as a result.

AFC West

1) **San Diego Chargers**- QB Phillip Rivers came into his own last season and became a superstar. He is once again at the helm of what should be a dynamic offensive attack. Rivers has one of the top TEs in the league at his disposal in Antonio Gates along with an emerging star in WR Vincent Jackson. The ground game will be carried by RB LaDainian Tomlinson and the future Hall of Famer is out to prove he still has some left in the tank.

The defense will look to rebound from a bad season, but the return of LB Shawne Merriman and the improved health of CB Antonio Cromartie should help their cause. The Chargers are in a very weak division and they should run away with the West and have their eyes on a Super Bowl.

2) **Denver Broncos**- New head coach Josh McDaniels has made a lot of changes since he arrived in Denver. Unhappy franchise QB Jay Cutler was shipped to Chicago and Kyle Orton is now McDaniels man. Orton comes into a good situation offensively as WRs Brandon Marshall and Eddie Royal are the best weapons he's ever had. The Marshall fiasco has calmed and now it seems he isn't being



Chargers RB LaDainian Tomlinson is out to prove that his career is far from over.

traded anywhere so he can just go play football. Rookie RB Knowshon Moreno is extremely talented and should help improve the ground game once he returns from injury. On defense the team still has one of the best CBs in the league in Champ Bailey and LB D.J. Williams is a tackling machine, but they don't have much outside of that. The Broncos won't be very good this year, but someone has to finish second in this bad division.

3) **Oakland Raiders**- Oakland owner Al Davis must think that QB JaMarcus Russell is indeed a franchise QB as the team released veteran backup Jeff Garcia. If the Raiders are going to improve, they need Russell to take the next step in his development and young RB Darren McFadden to stay healthy and be the explosive back they think he can be. The defense actually has a lot to like. They have the best CB in the league, Nnamdi Asomugha, a great LB in Kirk Morrison, and they just traded to acquire DE Richard Seymour from the Patriots. The Raiders are in a very weak division, so it's plausible that they could finish second, but the playoffs are not in sight.

4) **Kansas City Chiefs**- New QB Matt Cassel is already hurt, RB Larry Johnson still hasn't recovered from his 416 carries in 2006, and WR Dwayne Bowe was dropped to the third string offense earlier this off-season because his coaches questioned his work ethic. On top of all that the Chiefs fired their offensive coordinator just weeks before the opening game. Kansas City has so many bad things going on right now that there is just very little to like. The defense is getting younger and has some talented pieces that can develop in the coming years, but they aren't there yet. This team won't be very good this year, and we'll just leave it at that.